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12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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The Hon. Patrick Donahoe
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

September 25, 2012

Dear Post Master General Donahoe:

I am writing in regards to an issue recently brought to my attention by Tampa Bay's Channel 10 News concerning the United States Postal Service's policy towards the use of repackaged priority and express mail shipping boxes.

On September 25, 2012, Channel 10 News investigators ran a story examining the Postal Service charging additional rates and, in some cases, rejecting packages shipped by consumers using repackaged priority and express mail shipping boxes. The link to this story can be found at <http://www.wtsp.com/news/topstories/article/275450/250/Government-waste-USPS-recycling-policies-hypocritical>.

As Chairman of the House Oversight Subcommittee on Postal Reform, I am concerned that the USPS is causing delays in service standards as many packages are being returned to sender; not being wise stewards of our environment by forbidding the use repackaged materials that would otherwise be discarded into a landfill; and, charging consumers additional, higher-priced priority shipping rather than cheaper, first-class rates.

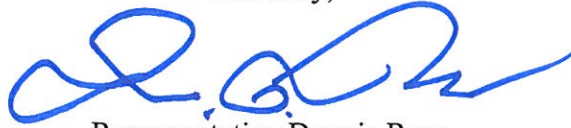
The Postal Service is losing nearly \$25 million dollars each day, has defaulted on its obligation to fund its retiree health benefit program and is on the brink of insolvency. Rejecting repackaged parcel boxes and charging consumer higher shipping rates hardly addresses the systemic changes needed to take place in order to ensure the USPS operates for another 200 years. Furthermore, small business owners and families struggling in today's uncertain economic times ought not to be worried about paying more to drop a package in the mail box or question whether an important package will be delivered on time.

Could you please provide the rationale for the position that shipping supplies are owned by the

Postal Service in perpetuity? Also, I would like to see USPS's written policy on the use of repackaged shipping boxes by consumers and the fiscal reasoning behind this seemingly counterproductive policy.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Ross", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Representative Dennis Ross